



University of Bridgeport Acupuncture Institute

February 3rd, 2015

Statement Regarding Parity of Insurance Coverage for Acupuncturists

Currently in the State of Connecticut there exists a disparity in insurance coverage for acupuncture when provided by a licensed acupuncturist versus another healthcare provider, such as a medical doctor, naturopath, or chiropractor. I submit the following two reasons why this disparity should not continue.

First, the education required in Connecticut for attaining an acupuncture license insures only well trained professionals, who can safely administer acupuncture treatments, will be licensed. The State demands graduation from a school accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM), which requires a minimum of 2,900 hours of education with a minimum of 1905 hours specifically in clinically related training, with a minimum of 660 hours of supervised clinical practice. Other healthcare professionals, who are allowed insurance coverage for acupuncture, do not receive as much acupuncture specific training as licensed acupuncturists. It may be surmised that licensed acupuncturists can deliver acupuncture treatments on par with these other healthcare providers.

Second, the State recognizes the legality of licensed acupuncturists to deliver acupuncture treatments to the public. There are only four procedure codes recognized in the American Medical Association's Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) for acupuncture (97810,97811,97813,97814) which reflect acupuncture treatment without electrical stimulation, extended non-electrical administration of acupuncture, acupuncture with electrical stimulation, and extended electrical stimulation administration of acupuncture. The codes reflect the procedures performed and do not discriminate on the basis of the type of practitioner performing the technique. It follows that since the State recognizes the legality of a licensed acupuncturist to perform these procedures accepted as identical to acupuncture performed by other healthcare providers and deemed as such by the AMA's procedural coding, that reason demands unbiased parity in insurance coverage.

Thank you for your consideration in this issue.

Steve Jackowicz, M.Ac., L.Ac., Ph.D.
Connecticut Licensed Acupuncturist #616
Assistant Clinical Professor
University of Bridgeport
Acupuncture Institute
Bridgeport, CT 06604
(203) 576-4424
sjackowicz@bridgeport.edu